

would perform all duties of the office and account to his principal annually, retaining a fourth or a third of the profits.²⁶ Long tenure was the rule, and there are four cases of succession from father to son.

3. THE SHERIFFS.

Just as the Naval Officers collected duties payable at the ports, so the sheriffs, first appointed in 1637/8, collected taxes and fees payable within the province.²⁷ As the sheriff was, moreover, the Governor's representative within his own county, he was appointed or reappointed by the chief executive every year, but not without some interference by the Assembly and attempted interference by the Lower House.

On three occasions the delegates sought to take appointment of sheriffs out of the Governor's hands altogether, against the letter of His Lordship's charter.²⁸ There were also efforts to limit the Governor's choice. An act of May, 1661, and another of the following spring, required appointment from a list of three nominees presented by each county court. However in May, 1669, the Upper House refused to concur in reviving the latter act, because "the appointing Sheriffs is part of my Lord's royal juris-

sterling a year (Massachusetts Historical Society, *Collections*, ser. I, vol. VII [1801], 202). Another list of offices and their values, in 1754, rates Annapolis, and probably the other Naval Offices, too low and omits Pocomoke. It quotes the revenues in currency, at twenty-five to fifty percent discount from sterling, as follows: Patuxent, £ 174.15.7½; North Potomac, £ 272.14.1; Annapolis, £ 318.12.4; Oxford, £ 240.14.1½ (Portfolio No. 3, folder 30, Md. Hall of Records). Gov. Sharpe rated the Naval Offices in 1761 at from £ 50 to £ 150 sterling a year. In 1755 Col. Tasker declared that the office at Annapolis brought in £ 200 sterling clear of the deputy's salary. But Benjamin Young complained the following year that his Naval Office of Pocomoke, supposed to be worth £ 80 to £ 100 sterling, actually brought him in hardly £ 40. He lived in Baltimore County and acted wholly by deputy. Sharpe in 1766 rated the annual value of Pocomoke at £ 50 sterling. (Horatio Sharpe to Board of Trade, Dec. 21, 1761; Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, March 12, 1755; Benjamin Young to Lord Baltimore, July 28, 1756; Sharpe to Lord Baltimore, Oct. 22, 1766, *Archives*, XXXII, 27; VI, 182; Calvert Paper No. 1197, Md. Historical Society; *Archives*, XIV, 334).

²⁶ Permission to act by deputy might be had from Lord Baltimore or, in cases covered by His Lordship's instructions, from the Governor (cf. Lords Baltimore and Guilford to Thomas Macnemara, Feb. 4, 1717/18, *Ibid.*, XXXIII, 170). On the deputy's terms see Chancery Record, liber 10, folio 160 (Md. Land Office), and Arnold Elzey, Jr. to John Leeds, Nov. 25, 1766 (Bozman Papers, I, art. 55, LC).

²⁷ The original appointees were James Baldrige for St. Mary's County and John Langford for the Isle of Kent, Jan. 29 and Feb. 9, 1637/8 (*Archives*, III 61, 63).

²⁸ These attempts occurred in March, 1638/9, August, 1642, and October, 1724 (*Ibid.*, I, 54, 148; XXXV, 41, 57).